"Hits like a bolt of lightning: fast, furious and charged with creative intent." – AIPT

THUNDERBOLTS

LANZING
KELLY
BORGES
HESLI

WORLDSTRIKE

MARVEL

THUNDERBOLTS

WORLDSTRIKE

Not long ago, Bucky Barnes and Steve Rogers defeated a shadowy organization that was controlling the world in secret. Bucky inherited their intel. And he intends to make the most of it...

THUNDERBOLTS

WORLDSTRIKE

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#1 variant by **MAHMUD ASRAR & NOLAN WOODARD**

▶OP-01 // OPERATION [SKULLBURN]

BERLIN.

"I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU, BUCKY BARNES.

WASHINGTON, DC.

"YOUR BEAUTIFUL LITTLE REVOLUTION.

MUMBAI.

"SO MANY SAVED FROM THE LIFE YOU LED...

MADRIPOOR.

"...AND EVEN MORE BODIES LEFT BLEEDING IN THE SHADOWS YOU CALL HOME.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

"JUSTICE. RIGHTEOUSNESS. *SPECTACULAR* STUFF.

OUTSIDE DENVER.

"A CENTURY OF CONSPIRACY TURNED INTO A PILE OF QUARANTINED RUBBLE IN THE ROCKIES.

LONDON.

"DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T PREPARE FOR THE DAY YOU CAME TO GET YOUR POUND OF REVENGE FROM *ME*?"

LAKE COMO. NOW.

BECAUSE HONESTLY, BUCKY. I DON'T CARE WHAT KIND OF SMOLDER YOU GIVE ME WITH THOSE LONG-BEATEN PUPPY-DOG EYES...

...I WILL PUT A BULLET IN YOUR HEAD AND KEEP YOUR FANCY ARM AS A TROPHY.

THE CONTESSA VALENTINA ALLEGRA DE FONTAINE. VAL TO HER FRIENDS.

O.X.E. IS A HELL OF A THING. THE COMPANY OF A THOUSAND SHELLS. YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SECRET WARS OF THIS WORLD THAN EVEN I DO...

...BUT THE CENTURY GAME IS OVER.*

THE PEOPLE YOU BUILT O.X.E. TO SERVE? THEY'RE DEAD OR GONE.

*AS SEEN IN CAPTAIN AMERICA FINALE #1.

THEN YOU JUST WASTED THE LAST SEVEN YEARS OF MY LIFE.

AND I *HATE* WASTING TIME.

KA-CLICK

CHCK

YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME.

I'M NOT HERE FOR REVENGE. *OR* TO DESTROY WHAT YOU'VE BUILT.

QUITE THE *OPPOSITE*, ACTUALLY. SEE, I'VE GOT A NEW KIND OF MISSION...

...AND I WANT A *PARTNER.*

IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF PLAY TO GET ME IN BRIGHTLY COLORED KEVLAR, YOU'RE POURING THE WRONG APERITIF.

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO THE TABLE. A WAY TO USE O.X.E. FOR SOMETHING WORTHY.

RECRUIT ALLIES. IDENTIFY THREAT VECTORS.

HELP ME PLAN A FOOLPROOF, WORLDWIDE OPERATION TO PERMANENTLY STOP A TARGET WE *BOTH* KNOW HAS BEEN UNDER THE PROTECTION OF HISTORY FOR FAR TOO LONG.

OH.

OKAY.

NOW YOU CAN CALL ME VAL.

THOUGH, I GOTTA SAY. SOUNDS A LOT LIKE A REVENGE SCHEME TO ME.

NO. THIS IS DIFFERENT. SOMETHING I SHOULD'VE DONE A LONG TIME AGO.

O.X.E.

THIS IS JUSTICE.

LIKE LIGHTNING.

ARGENTINA.

72 HOURS LATER.

AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON.

HEY, BOYS. NICE HORRIFYING *NAZI WAR MACHINE* AND *PLANET-KILLING RESOURCE GRAB* YOU GOT HERE.

SURE WOULD BE A SHAME IF SOMETHING *HAPPENED* TO IT.

YOU KNOW.

LIKE *ME.*

HOLY [redacted], IT'S THE [redacted] DESTROYER!!!

RUN!!!

AW. YOU KNOW MY NAME. THAT'S NICE.

BUT BAD NEWS, COSPLAY GOEBBELS...

...IT'S WAY TOO LATE FOR YOU TO DO ANYTHING BUT *BURN.*

IN THE NAME OF THE MASTER!

FIRE EVERYTHING!!!

MAN, ARE YOU GONNA REGRET THAT.

SEE, I MADE A PROMISE. NEVER AGAIN WOULD THE NAZI CRACK THE WHIP--NOT AS LONG AS THE MIGHTY DESTROYER LIVED.

AND SADLY FOR YOU, I AM *VERY MUCH* ALIVE. AND I HAVE A *BAT* OF PURE EXPLOSIVE *NEGANITE.*

WHAT DO *YOU* GUYS HAVE? SUPER-PURE *BLOOD,* RIGHT? WELL, I SHOWED YOU MINE.

HOW ABOUT YOU SHOW ME YOURS?

SHARON CARTER. NICE MOVES.

BUCKY BARNES. NICE *INTEL.* WHAT'S NEXT?

IT'S REALLY BETTER IF I SHOW YOU.

SPOILER ALERT: IT'S BASICALLY MORE OF THAT, EXCEPT EVEN *MORE* SATISFYING.

I'M GLAD YOU CAME. CAN'T IMAGINE STEVE APPROVES.

YEAH, I DIDN'T EXACTLY ADVERTISE OUR SHADOWY UNKNOWN MISSION TO MY EXTREMELY SENSITIVE SUPER-HERO BOYFRIEND.

ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'VE TAKEN UP WITH FORMER MS. MADAME HYDRA OVER HERE.

BE NICE. VAL'S TRYING SOMETHING NEW.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WEREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A FOURTH?

HE'LL JOIN US ON THE WAY.

THAT'S *OMINOUS.*

FIRST TIME HE'S EVER BEEN CALLED *THAT,* TRUST ME.

AND HERE I THOUGHT NICK FURY WAS CAGEY.

SORRY, BUT EVERY ELEMENT OF THIS OP IS DELIBERATELY PLANNED. COMPARTMENTALIZATION IS KEY.

OUR TARGET HAS CONTINGENCIES ON CONTINGENCIES. EVERY ATTEMPT TO NEUTRALIZE HIM OVER THE LAST EIGHTY YEARS HAS FAILED--INCLUDING MY OWN.

AND *ESPECIALLY* STEVE'S.

HE SPENDS *EVERY* WAKING *DAY* BROADCASTING *HATE* AND *MURDER* ACROSS THE GLOBE.

HE'S *PROTECTED* BY INTERNATIONAL LAW. BY *DECENCY* HE'D NEVER SHOW ANYONE ELSE. BY THE ASSUMPTION THAT NO ONE COULD EVER *BURN* HIM DOWN WHERE HE *LIVES.*

BUT NO ONE-- *NO ONE*--EXISTS OUTSIDE OUR PURVIEW. I'M DONE PLAYING BY THE RIGGED RULES OF AN UNJUST WORLD.

HOLY [redacted]. YOU'RE ACTUALLY GONNA DO IT.

FOR THE LAST DAMN TIME.

IN THE NAME OF THE MILLIONS WHO'VE DIED BY HIS HAND, HIS ORDER AND HIS VILE IDEAS...

...TONIGHT, THE RED SKULL MUST DIE.

TOLD YOU YOU'D LIKE IT.

HEY, WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE *DAMN* RIGHT.

UGLY LITTLE CASTLE, HUH?

FOR AN UGLY LITTLE MAN.

LOOK, YOU BOTH KNOW I LOVE [redacted]-TALKING A NAZI, BUT THAT WHIRRING SOUND? THAT'S A GATLING WARMING UP ON THE ROOF.

GOOD.

LET THEM COME.

MASTER MEN! THIS IS WHAT WE WERE MADE FOR!

PROTECT THE FÜHRER WITH YOUR BLINDING GLORY!!! REMEMBER THAT WHILE YOUR POWER AS *ARYANS* COMES FROM GOD...

...WHAT YOU *ARE* BELONGS TO ***THE SKULL!!!***

EIGHTY YEARS OF THAT LINE AND IT STILL MAKES ME THROW UP IN MY MOUTH A LITTLE.

YOU KNOW, THERE'S A CURE FOR THAT. AND IT RHYMES WITH--

BOOM

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE.

SO YOU'VE MET OUR KIND BEFORE AND THINK YOURSELF PREPARED. GOOD.

I LOVE WATCHING HOPE *DIE.*

KRCCH

VAL!

YES. SCREAM YOUR PAIN TO THE NIGHT.

LET ME SEE THE TEARS AS YOU REALIZE YOUR OWN *INFERIORITY.* LET ME WATCH THE GREAT CONTESSA FINALLY *DIE* FOR HER THOUSAND ***BETRAYALS.***

THE SKULL STILL SPEAKS ABOUT YOU AS HIS GREATEST FAILURE.

...REALLY?

THEN HE PROBABLY SHOULD'VE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE ***ORIGINAL*** CONTESSA ALLEGRA DE FONTAINE ***DIED*** EIGHT YEARS AGO IN A RUSSIAN ***GULAG.***

I'M A PERFECT BACKUP OF HER MIND INSTALLED IN A NEXT-GENERATION LIFE-MODEL DECOY ON THE ORDERS OF THE FORMER GODS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

I'M [redacted] BULLETPROOF.

AND YOU'RE EXTREMELY ***DEAD.***

SURPRISE.

NOW KEEP UP, WE'VE GOT A CASTLE TO STORM.

I...DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THAT.

I LIKE HER *MUCH* BETTER THIS WAY. BUT IF THERE'S ONE THING I LEARNED FROM AUNT PEGGY...

...RESPECT IS A VERY DIFFERENT THING THAN TRUST.

NEXT TIME WE MAKE A RUN ON ONE OF THE WORLD'S PREMIER SUPER VILLAINS, MAYBE WE DON'T BLOW OUR COVER QUITE SO EARLY?

WE'RE MAKING A STATEMENT. NO USE IN WHISPERING.

IS THAT... MUSIC?

WAGNER. IT'S ALWAYS GOTTA BE WAGNER.

NO ONE DOES CREEPY QUITE LIKE SHMIDT. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES STEVE'S FOUGHT HIM, I'VE NEVER MANAGED TO SHAKE THE GOOSEBUMPS.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE'RE HERE.

DISCREDITING HIM ONLY MAKES HIM STRONGER. KILLING HIM ONLY SPAWNS ANOTHER.

BUT WHAT WE'RE STARTING TODAY...IT'S GONNA END HIS EVIL ONCE AND FOR ALL.

BIG TALK. DON'T PULL YOUR PUNCHES WHEN THE TIME COMES, HERO.

INTEL SAYS HIS BROADCAST STUDIO IS JUST AHEAD. GUY'S BASICALLY A WALKING PODCAST THESE DAYS...

...SO ALL WE GOTTA DO IS CRASH HIS SHOW.

OH, IS THAT ALL, MY BELOVED CONTESSA?

WELL THEN, BY ALL MEANS...

...BE MY GUEST.

YOU [redacted], YOU WALKED US RIGHT INTO A TRAP.

DID I? HUH, I HADN'T NOTICED.

TOO BUSY LURING *THEM* INTO ONE, I GUESS. SILLY ME.

WAIT, WHAT?

HOLD, DESTROYER.

AND WATCH THE SKIES.

SMASH

RIGHT ON TIME.

...STEVE?

NYET.

EVEN BETTER.

RED GUARDIAN, MEET THE NEW DESTROYER. GOT A FEELING THIS'LL BE A REAL ENEMIES-TO-FRIENDS ARC FOR YOU BOTH.

HE'S THE BACKUP?! WHO'S NEXT, *BATROC* THE [redacted] *LEAPER?!*

IF THERE IS *BACKUP* HERE, *IT IS ALL OF YOU!*

THIS OPERATION IS *MINE.*

IS IT? WHO EXACTLY TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS OP, ALEXEI?

YOU KNOW HER AS THE *WHITE WIDOW.*

SHE KNOWS AND RESPECTS MY MISSION TO *DESTROY* THE ROOTS OF *FASCISM* THAT NOW STRANGLE MY BEAUTIFUL *HOMELAND.*

OH, YOU MEAN YELENA? WE LOVE HER.

IN FACT, SHE'S BEEN ON OUR PAYROLL AS OF LAST WEEK.

WHAT A COINCIDENCE.

HRM.

INDEED.

TELL ME, THEN. WAS THIS ALL SOME CAPITALIST CON? HAS THE MISSION CHANGED?

NOT IN THE *LEAST.*

THE RED SKULL IS BEHIND THAT DOOR.

AND HE WON'T BE LEAVING.

THEN *NEITHER* WILL ALEXEI SHOSTAKOV.

WELL THEN, GUARDIAN...

...WELCOME TO THE THUNDERBOLTS.

JAMES. FOR A MAN WHO HAS DONE SO MUCH TO HELP ME, YOU ONLY HAD TO KNOCK.

AFTER ALL, YOU DESTROYED THOSE FOOLS IN THE *OUTER CIRCLE.*

THE GREATEST BULWARK AGAINST MY INEVITABLE RISE.

AND WHAT'S MORE, THEY WERE HOARDING SO MANY DELICIOUS RESOURCES THAT I WAS OH-SO HAPPY TO *TAKE.*

AND NOW, LIKEWISE, I WILL TAKE YOUR *LIVES.*

CRUNCH

LUKIN! YOU WERE A *STAIN* ON THE KGB EVEN *BEFORE* YOU WORE THAT *DEGENERATE MASK!*

LUKIN IS *DEAD*, YOU SOVIET FOOL. I *ATE HIM* FROM THE INSIDE UNTIL *ONLY MY GLORY* WAS LEFT!

AND *CARTER*, WEARING THE NAME OF MEN I *CRUSHED* ON *COUNTLESS OCCASIONS.*

BRIAN AND ROGER SAY HELLO, DIRTBAG.

VAL, HEADS UP, YOU MIGHT NEED TO *WORK QUICKER!*

MICROMANAGEMENT ISN'T A GOOD LOOK, BARNES. ESPECIALLY THIS EARLY IN OUR RELATIONSHIP.

DEAL WITH THE *THREAT*. I'LL GET WHAT WE CAME HERE FOR.

YOU'LL GET *NOTHING!*

YOU ARE AS *BROKEN* AS YOUR *UNION!*

AND *YOU.*

IF YOU WANT TO WEAR A SKULL SO BADLY...

...I CAN HELP YOU DO IT MORE HONESTLY.

BAM

THAT'S ENOUGH CRUELTY.

BARNES! CATCH!

CLICK

DO YOU THINK THIS IS SOME KIND OF REDEMPTION? HEROISM?!

IT IS COWARDICE.

ADMIT THE TRUTH.

YOU KNOW HOW *POWERFUL* HATE IS! AND YOU KNOW--*YOU KNOW*--THAT *IT WILL ALWAYS WIN!*

YEAH, WELL. I GOT FRIENDS NOW.

AND WE'RE TRYING SOMETHING *NEW.*

THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN! THERE IS ONLY THE ETERNAL BATTLE BETWEEN HISTORY AND *THE UNQUENCHABLE HATE OF THE RED SKULL...*

...OF WHICH I WILL ALWAYS BE THE *FINAL VICTOR!*

MORE LIKE THE FINAL OUT.

KARACK

ALL RIGHT, I'VE GOT THE TRANSFER DATA-- WE CAN FINISH THIS--

OOF!

KRAKOOM

CASTLE RED SKULL! HEAR MY COMMAND!

CONTINGENCY COMPROMISED!

OBLITERATION PROTOCOL, CHRONOS SEVEN TW--

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, SKULL. REVOLUTION IS A KILLER.

SO LET HIM WORK.

BOOM

BOOM

THIS IS SO... FAMILIAR.

LUKIN ONCE ORDERED YOU TO KILL ME...WHICH ONLY BROUGHT ABOUT MY INEVITABLE RISE. DO YOU THINK THIS WILL BE...ANY DIFFERENT?

YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BUT A PUPPET. TO ME...TO THE CIRCLE. EVEN TO STEVE ROGERS, THOUGH PERHAPS YOU ENJOY HAVING HIS HAND UP YOUR--

KA-CHICK

ONE LAST SHOT, JUST FOR ME?

I SEE YOU, MY WINTER SOLDIER.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW.

EVERYTHING YOU'VE BUILT.

WE'RE GOING TO BURN IT TO ASH.

AND WHEN YOU DO COME BACK--WHATEVER MEATSUIT YOU DECIDE TO RIDE INTO YOUR NEXT FOURTH REICH--KNOW THIS.

THIS ISN'T THE *LAST SHOT* IN OUR WAR, RED SKULL.

IT'S THE FIRST.

LET ME BE THE FIRST TO SAY...

...[redacted] FASCISTS AND [redacted] THAT GUY.

AMEN. I GOT IT ALL, BY THE WAY. THE SKULL'S ENTIRE NETWORK, TIP TO TAIL.

THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO. I BROUGHT THE VODKA, AS REQUESTED.

TO WHAT DO WE TOAST? THE DEAD? THE LIVING WHO WILL NOW SEE JUSTICE?

OH, THIS ISN'T FOR DRINKING.

AH.

THAT WORKS TOO.

BVVV

WHRRRR

CLK

BRRRR

EIGHTY YEARS.

EIGHTY LONG YEARS IN THE DARK.

FOOM

TIME HAS NEVER MOVED FASTER.

FOOM

OR BEEN SO UNJUST TO ONE SO NOBLE.

FOOM

THIS WORLD HAS FORGOTTEN THE TERROR OF THE SKULL. IT HAS FOR TOO LONG BOWED TO A PRETENDER. AN ECHO. A MASK.

THEY THINK THEY CAN END ME. BUT THEY WILL FINALLY LEARN TO UNDERSTAND.

I AM THE END.

#1 Nightmare variant by **PEACH MOMOKO**

► OP-02 // OPERATION [REDMONEY]

"SO, HERE'S THE BAD NEWS, BUCKY BARNES.

"YOU'RE GOING TO A PARTY.

"LUCKILY, THIS PARTY IS FILLED WITH PEOPLE YOU *HATE*, SO YOU CAN MAINTAIN YOUR STOIC BROOD AND FIT RIGHT IN.

"SEE, BEFORE YOU PUT A *BULLET* IN HIM, THE RED SKULL WAS THE EIGHTH WEALTHIEST MAN ON THE PLANET. TONIGHT, HIS *ENTIRE FORTUNE* CHANGES HANDS...

"...THROUGH THE VAULT OF A *TRUSTED INDEPENDENT BROKER* AT A *VERY EXCLUSIVE CLUB.*

"FOR MOST OF YOU HERO-TYPES, AN INVITE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE... BUT LUCKILY, WE KEEP BAD COMPANY, AND YOUR REPUTATION HAS ONLY GOTTEN *WORSE.*

"THEY STILL THINK YOU'RE A SUPER VILLAIN OUT THERE."

GOOD.

THEN THEY'LL NEVER SEE THIS COMING.

I thought you'd never ask.
-Jumbo

NEW YORK CITY.

THE HELLFIRE CLUB. SCUM, VILLAINY AND DESIGNER TAPAS.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *SKULL?*

SOMEWHERE IN BRAZIL, I HEARD. BURNED ALIVE.

A LITTLE SNAKE TOLD ME IT WAS A SECRET BASE IN BAVARIA. *BOOM.*

HAD YOU ACTUALLY *WATCHED* ANY OF HIS... *CONTENT?*

MOLOCH'S BEARD, *NO.* WHO HAS TIME FOR TWO HOURS OF RACIST RANTING FROM A MAN WHOSE FACE LITERALLY *CAN'T EMOTE?*

MY *SON* WAS A BIG FAN THOUGH. I DON'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL HIM WHY THE NEW EPISODE HASN'T DROPPED.

HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK WE'RE TALKING ABOUT?

$15,374,586,293. AND CHANGE.

OH. OH MY. THAT IS...

HIS PASSION MAY HAVE BEEN WORLD DOMINATION, BUT HIS TRUE SKILL LAY IN FIDUCIARY MANAGEMENT.

I'LL ONLY SAY THIS TO *YOU,* BUT... I'M *GLAD,* FRANKLY. HIS BRAND SUCKED THE AIR FROM THE ROOM.

YOU ARE SO *BRAVE* FOR SAYING THAT--AND SO CORRECT. WE ALL LOVE A GOOD JACKBOOT, BUT WAS ANYONE ACTUALLY EXCITED ABOUT *YET ANOTHER* NEW REICH? NO, I THINK THE FUTURE OF FASCISM IS GOING TO BE IN *CRYPTO...*

INVITATIONS?

OF COURSE.

THIS IS *THROUPLE* TO *OVERSIGHT.*

OVERSIGHT COPIES. INGRESS?

ACHIEVED. START THE CLOCK, VAL...

THUNDERBOLTS ARE IN THE FIELD.

I ALREADY HATE THIS. PLEASE TELL ME YOU BROUGHT THOSE BEAUTIFUL BIG EXPLOSIVES OF YOURS, NATASHA.

OH, I BROUGHT A LOT MORE THAN THAT. JUST WAIT, YELENA.

DON'T THINK WE'LL WAIT LONG. AT LEAST 75 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM HAVE TRIED TO KILL ME.

EXACTLY. AND THEY'RE ALL LOOKING AT YOU WHEN I'M *RIGHT HERE.*

BY DESIGN, WHITE WIDOW. USE THAT CONTEMPT.

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO, LITTLE VOICE.

I HAVEN'T NEEDED A COACH SINCE THAT ONE I KILLED AT THE GYMNASTICS FEDERATION WHEN I WAS 12.

BARNES! SO GLAD YOU COULD ***JOIN US!***

I MUST SAY, THAT LITTLE ***GAME*** THE ***OUTER CIRCLE*** WAS PLAYING? SO GAUCHE.

THE REVOLUTION THOUGHT THE SAME THING.

AND WHAT A DELIGHT IT IS TO SEE ***YOU*** BACK AMONG YOUR PROPER PEERS, MS. ROMANOFF. IS IT TRUE WHAT THEY SAY? THE BLACK WIDOW HAS GONE ***CANNIBAL?***

MY DEAR COUNT NEFARIA, YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW SUCH THINGS ARE MORE COMPLICATED THAN THEY APPEAR.

YELENA? EYES ON OUR PRIZE? ANY SUSPICIOUS BRIEFCASES WE CAN YANK?

I CAN ONLY MAKE CHITCHAT WITH THE ***BUTCHER*** OF THE ***MAGGIA*** FOR SO LONG BEFORE I SNAP.

NOT A SINGLE BRIEFCASE IN SIGHT. JUST MEN WHO WANT TO PLY ME WITH TRULY DISGUSTING ***SHOTS.***

BUT OUR ***HOST*** IS RIGHT ON TIME.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. HUMANS AND OTHERWISE. ***ENTREPRENEURS. MY GUESTS.***

WELCOME TO THE HELLFIRE CLUB.

FOR THOSE NEW AND PERHAPS UNFAMILIAR, LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF...

BEYOND THESE WALLS, MY NAME IS *WILSON FISK.*

BUT HERE, YOU MAY CALL ME ***THE WHITE KING.***

WE OBSERVE THIS PARTICULAR FÊTE EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT--BUT THE ***UNIQUE*** NATURE OF TONIGHT'S GATHERING CANNOT BE IGNORED.

AFTER ALL, THE RED SKULL IS DEAD.

SO IT IS WITH GREAT SOLEMNITY THAT I REMIND YOU THAT THE HELLFIRE CLUB DOES NOT CELEBRATE ***GENOCIDAL FASCISTS,*** NOR DO WE TOLERATE THE USE OF ***NATIONAL SOCIALIST IMAGERY.***

THERE WILL BE NO TOASTS TO THE MADMAN OF THE RHINE.

TONIGHT, WE CELEBRATE THE ***LIVING.***

SO, FISK'S THE ONE RECEIVING SKULL'S FUNDS.

FOR ***SURE.*** HE PROTESTS ***FAR*** TOO MUCH. HYPOCRITE.

WHICH MEANS THE COURIER IS ALREADY HERE, BUT I STILL DON'T SEE THE...

OH.

WHY CAN IT NEVER JUST BE A BRIEFCASE?

WELL, [redacted]. THAT'S VASTE, THE LIVING VAULT.

BE ADVISED, THROUPLE--THAT'S A POCKET DIMENSION IN HIS RIBCAGE.

ONLY ONE RULE WITH VASTE: WHATEVER GOES IN, ONLY HE CAN TAKE OUT. HE'S PRETTY BIG IN EUROPE--AND O.X.E.'S USED HIM FOR SOME OF OUR MORE...EXCITING TRANSFERS.

AND WHAT DOES O.X.E. STAND FOR AGAIN?

CHANGES EVERY TIME I ASK.

YOU KNOW SHE'S GOING TO BETRAY YOU, RIGHT? MOST LIKELY IN *SPECTACULAR* FASHION?

ONE OPERATION AT A TIME, YELENA.

SO. WITH THOSE CAVEATS OUT OF THE WAY, I INVITE YOU TO ENJOY YOUR STAY IN THESE AUGUST HALLS. ONCE THE PURVIEW OF THE WORLD'S ELITE, THEN A HARBOR FOR ASCENDANT MUTANTS...

...NOW YOURS. BUT MORE SPECIFICALLY...

...MINE.

SO I LEAVE YOU WITH ONE FINAL, PARAMOUNT WARNING. IF *ANYONE* HERE ATTEMPTS *ANY* MEASURE OF LARCENY, SUBTERFUGE OR MURDER IN THESE HALLS TONIGHT THAT HAS NOT BEEN *SPECIFICALLY* PERMITTED BY YOUR *WHITE KING*...

...I WILL *SAVOR EVERY MOMENT* AS I *CRUSH* THE *LIFE* FROM YOUR *HEART.*

OVERSIGHT TO THROUPLE, SMASH AND GRAB IS A GO.

CRACK

JAMES, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

NO TIME FOR THERAPY, THROUPLE. THAT ELEVATOR IS THE ONLY DIRECT ROUTE TO FISK'S PRIVATE SAFE, SO YOU INTERCEPT VASTE NOW, OR WE'RE [redacted].

BETTER THAN DEAD. DID YOU SEE THAT LOOK FISK JUST GAVE BARNES? PURE MURDER. WE COME AT THIS SIDEWAYS OR NOT AT ALL.

NATASHA-- GO OUTSIDE, I'LL GO THROUGH THE KITCHENS. BARNES SECURES OUR EXIT AND COVERS FISK.

THEN WE SCATTER. RENDEZVOUS AT THE TARGET.

TWO MINUTES. THEN WE MOVE.

SURE, SURE, ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD...

JAMES. IF THERE'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO KNOW...

THE LAST TIME I FACED FISK, I WAS AT MY LOWEST. BEFORE THE CIRCLE, BEFORE ANY OF IT. BUT HE HAD INFO I NEEDED. AND I WAS DESPERATE.

HE...HE ALMOST KILLED ME THAT NIGHT...

"...AND HE WAS [redacted] SLEEPWALKING."*

*IN DEVIL'S REIGN: WINTER SOLDIER #1. --ALANNA

JAMES.

YOUR FEAR IS TALKING. JUST AS IT WAS THAT NIGHT.

A FEAR THAT CAME FROM LONELINESS. FROM ISOLATION. FROM THE MAN YOU *WERE*.

FACE YOUR FEAR, MY LOVE.

TONIGHT, IT WILL RUN FROM THE MAN YOU *ARE*.

ALL THESE *FEELINGS*. YIKES. I GOTTA KILL *SOMETHING*, OR I'M GONNA PUKE.

NATASHA.

YOUR HEART IS RACING. YOUR MUSCLES HUM.

DOES THIS MEAN WE CAN FINALLY COME OUT TO PLAY?

WE'RE NOT HERE TO PLAY, WIDOW...

...WE'RE HERE TO DANCE.

MA'AM. THIS AREA IS RESTRICTED.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, I'M JUST HEADING FOR THE SECRET SERVICE ELEVATOR IN THE NEXT ROOM. YOU KNOW, THE ONE THAT LEADS TO THE VERY IMPORTANT *VAULT?*

WHAT? NO, THAT IS *VERY SPECIFICALLY--*

YOU SHUSH NOW.

COMMENCING INFILTRATION.

OH, THAT'S CUTE. I'M ALREADY IN.

DON'T LIE.

YOU'RE STILL TEN STORIES UP.

NOT ONCE I BREAK THE CODE ON THE SERVICE ELEVATOR.

NO NEED. MY SYMBIOTE CAN GET IT STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE.

FIVE... SIX...TWO... EIGHT.

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'RE A CREEPY MIND READER NOW.

UGH. I GOT BLOOD ON MY SHOES.

HEH. YOU'RE SUCH A LIGHTWEIGHT.

YOU'RE CERTAIN? THE *WIDOWS?*

DELIGHTFUL. SEND THE ELEVATOR.

OVERSIGHT TO REVOLUTION. WIDOWS ARE ON THE SAFE LEVEL-- TIME TO CLEAR THE EXIT.

NEGATIVE. FISK IS HEADED RIGHT FOR THEM.

DO NOT ENGAGE THE KINGPIN, BARNES. YOU'RE THE ONLY ELEMENT OF SURPRISE WE HAVE LEFT.

YEAH, BUT IF I DON'T...

FISK.

THE SKULL.

IT WAS ME.

[redacted]

AND *WHOEVER* YOU'RE HOLDING THIS *MONEY* FOR--WHATEVER *REMNANTS* OF SKULL'S OPERATION THAT ARE GIVING YOU YOUR TEN PERCENT--I'M GOING TO BRING *DOUBLE* THE PAIN DOWN ON YOU AND YOUR LITTLE FETISH PARTY HERE.

THAT'S A *PROMISE.*

"*REMNANTS.*"

YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA.

YOU KILLED *LUKIN*...

...BUT THE SKULL STILL LIVES.

LET THOSE WORDS BE A REMINDER OF YOUR *FUTILITY* AS YOU ARE *BEATEN TO DEATH.*

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, MR. BARNES, THERE ARE *THIEVES* IN MY HOUSE.

SKREEEE

HONESTLY, BARNES. I'M GENUINELY IMPRESSED.

I'VE RARELY SEEN AN OP GO THIS BAD THIS FAST.

ALL PART OF THE PLAN, VAL.

LITERALLY NONE OF THIS IS PART OF THE PLAN.

IT IS NOW.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WE'RE SCRAPPING THE EXTRACTION PLAN. GET HERE WITH A QUINJET, BLOW THE TOP OF THE ELEVATOR SHAFT.

T-MINUS TEN.

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE CONSIDERABLY MORE INSANE THAN YOUR REPUTATION.

ALWAYS KEEP 'EM GUESSING.

TRANSACTION CODE X330-DELTA-66. FINALIZING DEPOSIT IN FIVE.

SUCH CONFIDENCE! NORMALLY, THAT'D BE A REAL THUMBS-UP FROM ME...

...BUT THE THING IS, THERE'S A ZERO PERCENT CHANCE YOU'RE LEAVING THAT VAULT ALIVE.

NICE SHTICK THOUGH. WE'LL REMEMBER YOU FONDLY.

A FITTING QUIP FROM THOSE WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE...

...AS I WILL ENSURE THAT *NO ONE* REMEMBERS EITHER OF *YOU*.

BIG TALK, FISK.

BOOM

BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PARTIAL TO *ACTION*.

NAT.

NOW.

YOU SEE THE ANGLE?

YOU'VE GOT A GOOD EYE, JAMES...

...AND AN EVEN BETTER ARM.

OH, HELLO! DID YOU WANT TO JOIN THE CRUCIAL PART OF THE MISSION? THE THING WE ACTUALLY *CAME* HERE TO DO?

YOU WEREN'T HAVING TOO MUCH FUN FIRING SPIDER-GOO AT THE BIGGEST TARGET IN NEW YORK CITY?

GET YOURSELF AN ALIEN SYMBIOTE AND WE'LL TALK.

OOOOH! I'M NATASHA, AND I'M TOO GOOD FOR *BOMBS* NOW!

YOU KNOW WHAT, YELENA?

YOU MIGHT HAVE A POINT.

THIS PLACE IS JUST BEGGING TO DIE IN FIRE.

YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GET HER *OUT* OF THERE, HANDSOME.

SHE'S *VERY* TROUBLESOME.

[redacted] YOU, SHMIDT.

INTERLOPER EXTRACTED. PROCEEDING WITH DEPOSIT LOCKDOWN. WAIT...PAUSING DEPOSIT...UNACCOUNTED ASSETS DETECTED... NO!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

BET YOU'RE REALLY RETHINKING YOUR LIFE AS A COURIER FOR FASCISTS, HUH?

I MEAN, I WOULD BE.

A GOOD GIMMICK, WASTED ON NAZIS. SO TRAGIC.

LET'S SEE IF A LITTLE COMPANY CHEERS HIM UP.

WHAT'S WRONG?!

THE WOMEN. ONE...ONE WAS INSIDE ME...

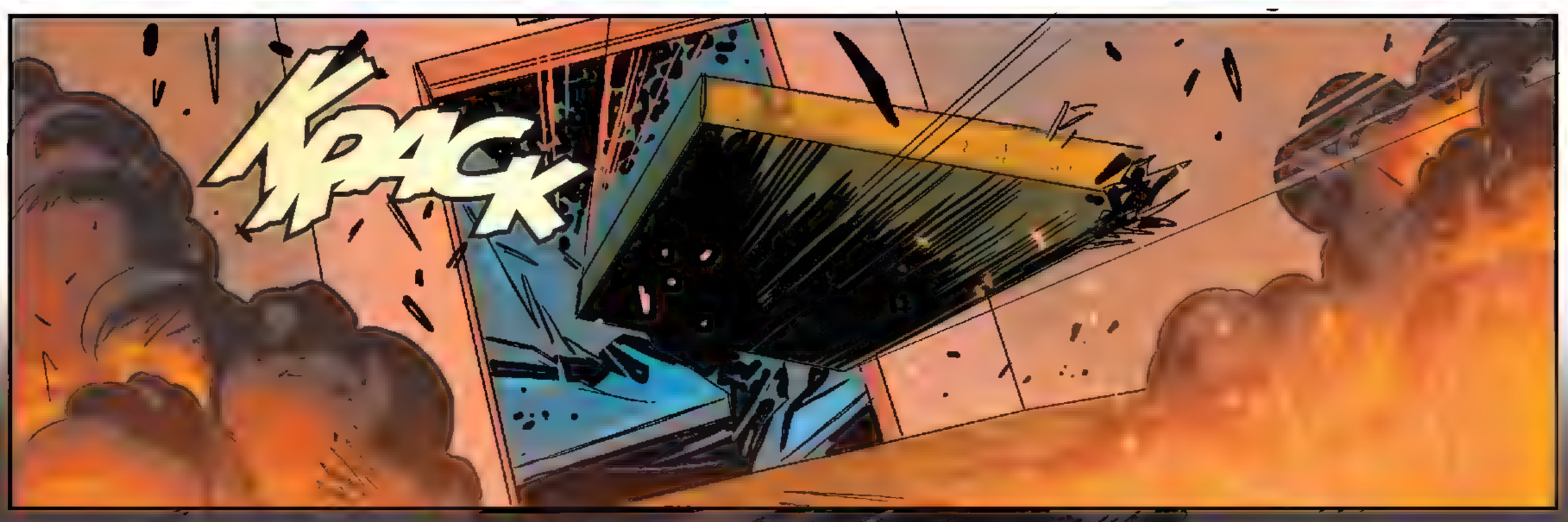
I THOUGHT NOTHING COULD BE TAKEN FROM YOU!

NOTHING *WAS* TAKEN...

...BUT I THINK THEY LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND.

WHUD

THOOM


KRACK

NEXT TIME YOU HEAR THUNDER, WILSON?
STAY THE HELL OUT OF THE LIGHTNING.

DAMMIT, BARNES.

I HAD *PLANS* FOR THAT NAZI GOLD.

THERE'S AN OLD SAYING IN RUSSIA. NO ONE WHO *WANTS* NAZI GOLD SHOULD *HAVE* NAZI GOLD.

MS. BELOVA.

WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO CHANGE INTO YOUR TACTICAL OUTFIT? I HAD THAT DRESS MADE SPECIAL.

AND YOU DID AN EXCELLENT JOB. IT MADE ME FEEL CUTE.

AND I'M A MUCH BETTER KILLER WHEN I'M FEELING CUTE.

THANK YOU, NAT. YOU DIDN'T NEED TO DO THIS.

THAT'S TRUE, JAMES. BUT THE THING IS...

...I *WANTED* TO.

THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN.

LATER.

"HE SOUNDED SO *SURE* OF IT.

"'THE SKULL STILL LIVES.'"

IF SHMIDT'S ALREADY BACK ON THE BOARD, WE'LL NEED TO ACCELERATE. HE CAN'T BE GIVEN TIME TO REGROUP.

THE GOOD NEWS: O.X.E.'S BEEN ON A WORLDWIDE AUDIT OF SKULL'S "*RED SITES*"-- BUT AFTER TODAY, WE'VE GOT THEM ALL STARVED FOR CASH AND ON THE RUN.

THE BAD NEWS: I'M REALLY ONLY SEEING ONE VECTOR OF CHATTER THAT COULD BE OUR NEW SKULL. ***ONE LAST RED SITE,*** ENTIRELY HIDDEN AND OUT OF OUR CONTROL.

IN FACT, THE ONLY WAY I COULD EVEN ***DETECT*** IT IS IN THE NEGATIVE SPACE ***BETWEEN*** POINTS OF KNOWN INTEL.

IN 48 HOURS, NAZI ASSETS INSIDE THE ***U.S. GOVERNMENT*** ARE GOING TO ***STRIKE*** THE SITE OFF THE MAP--PRESUMABLY COVERING SKULL'S TRACKS AS HE RE-ENTERS THE WORLD AND STARTING A DANGEROUS WAR IN THE PROCESS.

THEN WE GET THERE FIRST.

YEAH, GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.

WHY? WHERE'S THE SITE?

OH, YOU KNOW. JUST A LITTLE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY IN EASTERN EUROPE. LEDERHOSEN. GREAT BEER.

AND AN IRONFISTED MAGICAL DICTATOR WITH AN INFAMOUS ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY ON ***FOREIGN INTERVENTION.***

[redacted].

[redacted] IS RIGHT, BUCKY...

"...BECAUSE THE RED SKULL IS IN *LATVERIA.*"

#1 variant by **GEORGE PÉREZ** & **EDGAR DELGADO**

#1 Ski Chalet variant by **LUCAS WERNECK**

#1 variant by **DERRICK CHEW**

▶ OP-03 // OPERATION [AMERICAN PERIL]

HONG KONG.

酒吧

夜总会

OPEN
开放

销路

YOU.

IN THE SHADOWS.

SIT OR DON'T. BUT EITHER WAY...

...STOP LURKIN', 'FORE I START GETTING PARANOID.

RED-BEAN ICE, FRIEND.

THEN I'D LEAVE THIS PLACE IF I WERE YOU.

DRINKING ALONE, MR. WALKER?

DRINKING, BUT NOT *ALONE*. PARTNER'S JUST GETTING A SANDWICH.

SHANG, RIGHT? OR IS IT *CHI*? I GET IT BACKWARD. I'D SAY *COMMANDER HAND*...BUT I'M NOT SEEING ANY *RINGS* ON THOSE SCRAWNY ARMS.

I'M JUST A SIMPLE WANDERER...

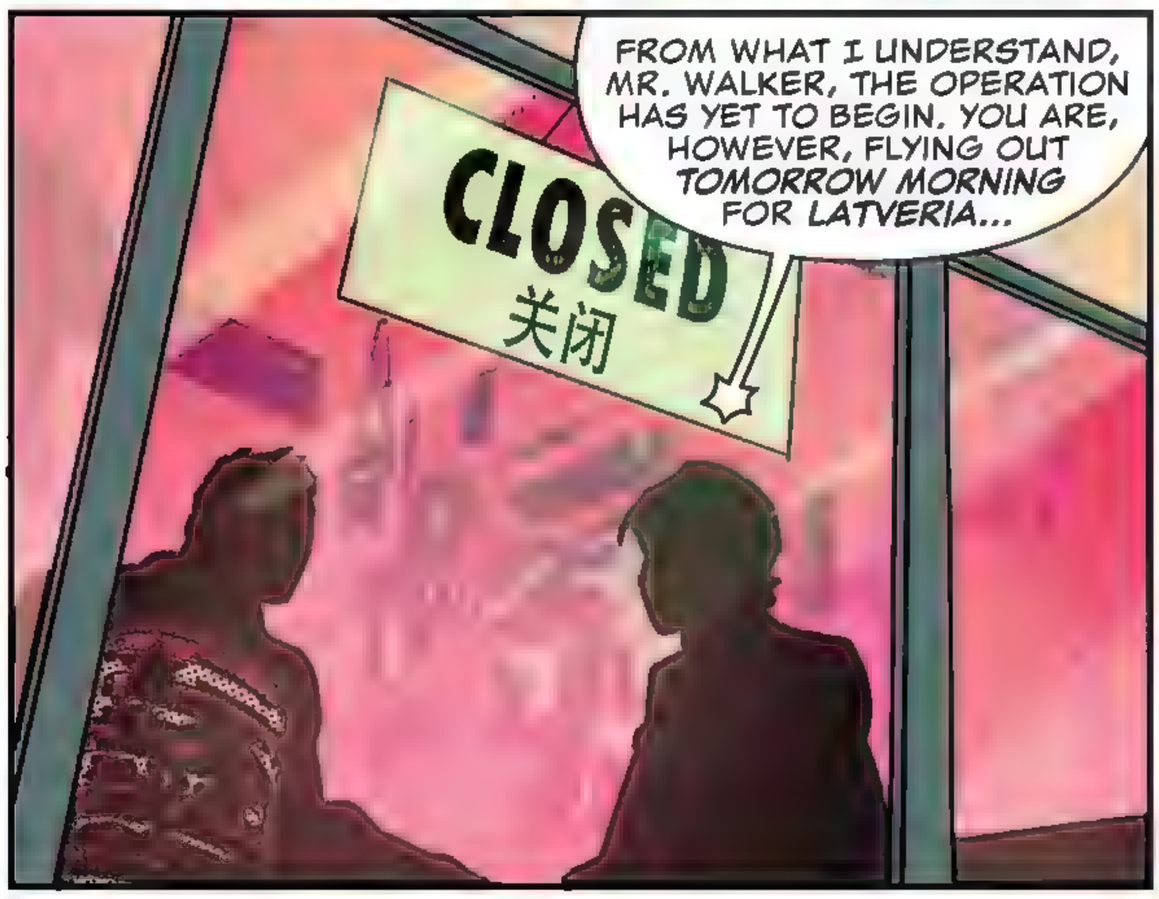
...CURIOUS TO MEET THE FAMOUS *U.S.AGENT*.

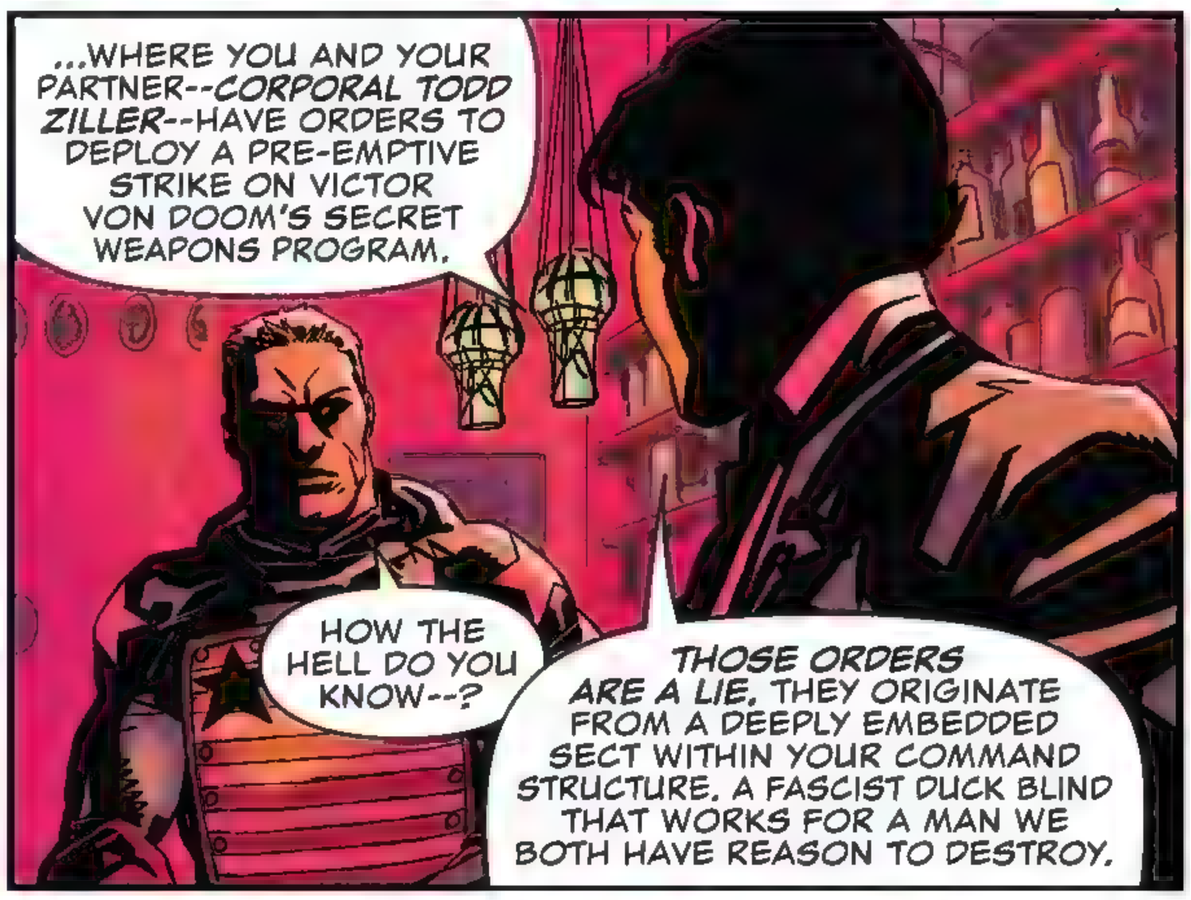
PERFECT. JOHN WILL FLEX HIS EGO FOR DAYS IF YOU LET HIM.

BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE SANDWICH JOINT IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD...

...SO I'M CALLING THIS OPERATION A GO.

CRACK
NORMALLY, I DON'T GIVE WARNINGS...
...BUT YOU KEEP BOTHERING ME, YOU'LL BE INTERFERING IN AN OFFICIAL U.S. MILITARY OPERATION. THAT COMES WITH CONSEQUENCES.


FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, MR. WALKER, THE OPERATION HAS YET TO BEGIN. YOU ARE, HOWEVER, FLYING OUT *TOMORROW MORNING* FOR *LATVERIA*...
CLOSED
关闭


...WHERE YOU AND YOUR PARTNER--*CORPORAL TODD ZILLER*--HAVE ORDERS TO DEPLOY A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE ON VICTOR VON DOOM'S SECRET WEAPONS PROGRAM.
HOW THE HELL DO YOU KNOW--?
THOSE ORDERS ARE A LIE. THEY ORIGINATE FROM A DEEPLY EMBEDDED SECT WITHIN YOUR COMMAND STRUCTURE. A FASCIST DUCK BLIND THAT WORKS FOR A MAN WE BOTH HAVE REASON TO DESTROY.

THE *RED SKULL.*

THOUGH LUKIN IS NOW FAMOUSLY *DEAD*, A CONTINGENCY PERSONALITY HAS ACTIVATED IN A BUNKER *UNDERNEATH* DOOMSTADT.
YOUR STRIKE WILL PROVIDE *COVER* SO THAT HE CAN *MAKE HIS ESCAPE* AND *BURN THIS WORLD* IN RETALIATION.

SOUNDS LIKE A BUNCH OF COMMIE [redacted] TO ME.
AND USING SKULL AS A BOOGEYMAN IS A *LOW BLOW*, CONSIDERING WHAT HE DID TO ME.
SO HOW 'BOUT WE STOP [redacted] AROUND...

...AND GET TO THE DAMN FIGHT ALREADY?

I HEAR YOU KNOW KUNG FU.

I HAVE BEEN CALLED BY MANY A MASTER OF GAMES OF DECEIT AND DEATH.

YEAH? WELL, YOU WANNA KNOW MY SUPER-POWER?

I DON'T GIVE A [redacted].

THUD

I DO.

"YOU'RE BEING USED, JOHN."

YOU KNOW HOW OFTEN I GET THAT LINE? SKULL KILLED MY PARENTS, YOU [redacted]! I AIN'T WORKING FOR HIM ANY MORE THAN I'M WORKING FOR *YOU!* I GET ORDERS, I *FOLLOW* ORDERS!

IT'S WHY THEY CALL ME THE *U.S.* [redacted] A--

KICK

THIS IS GAMEMASTER TO REVOLUTION.

TARGET ONE IS DOWN.

COPY, GAMEMASTER...

...APPROACHING TARGET TWO.

Y'ALL GOT AMERICAN CHEESE?

ZILLER. I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME.

THE HELL ARE YOU? 'CUZ I ONLY ANSWER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED--

OVERRIDE.

AUTHORIZATION: WELT-FÜHRER.

PROGRAM: TROUBLESHOOTER.

ZILLER, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--?

STAY BACK! SOMETHING'S-- SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG, YOU GOTTA FIND JOHN...

PROTOCOL: OMEGA.

REMOVE SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND BEGIN IMMEDIATELY.

THIS ISN'T THE DEPLOYMENT ZONE!

WALKER, WHERE ARE YOU?! I CAN'T DEACTIVATE THE CHANGE--

--OH GOD, YOU GOTTA EVACUATE THE CITY *RIGHT NOW!*

AUF WIEDERSEHEN, MR. BARNES.

REVOLUTION TO GAMEMASTER!

WE'RE COMPROMISED! TARGET TWO IS ACTIVE AND ON THE MOVE!

I REPEAT--

AMERICAN KAIJU
IS IN THE FIELD!

WHEN I JOINED YOUR TEAM, I DIDN'T THINK THAT YOU WERE GOING TO IMMEDIATELY TRY TO DESTROY THE CITY! WHERE'S OUR BACKUP?

YOU ARE THE BACKUP, SHANG-CHI.

"THEN THIS IS NO LONGER YOUR OPERATION, BARNES."

COMMANDER HAND TO ALL POINTS!

FIVE WEAPONS SOCIETY-- RISE!

FLOOD THE STREETS. SAVE WHO YOU CAN. REDUCE DESTRUCTION TO A MINIMUM.

SHOW OUR PEOPLE WHAT TRUE HEROISM LOOKS LIKE...

...BUT DO NOT ENGAGE THE AMERICAN WEAPON. I'VE FACED IT BEFORE AND KNOW ALL TOO WELL ITS DISGUSTING POWER.

BARNES, MEET ME AT OUR RENDEZVOUS COORDINATES. I HAVE A PLAN...

"...ASSUMING THIS CITY LIVES LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO SAVE HER."

AW, HELL.

DAMMIT, TODD.

GETTING *REAL TIRED* OF SAVING YOU FROM YOURSELF.

WHEN YOU DIE, IT'S GOING TO BE IN BED, AT 95, FILLED WITH BEEF RIBS AND SURROUNDED BY YOUR WHOLE DINO-FAMILY...

CLICK

...IN [redacted] AMERICA.

LET'S HOPE THERE'S STILL ENOUGH OF YOU LEFT IN THERE TO BELIEVE ME.

ZILLER!

TODD, YOU [redacted], STAND DOWN!

BARNES! WHY ARE YOU DISARMING? THIS IS THE MOMENT TO *TAKE YOUR SHOT!*

I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT *PARTNERS.* WALKER GETS *ONE CHANCE.*

JOHN.

THIS AIN'T--*HRAR*-- AIN'T ME--

FOCUS ON YOUR BREATHING! LIKE WE TRAINED! FIVE SECONDS IN, FIVE SECONDS OUT!

HRARRRRR AHH...

COME ON, ZILLER, LISTEN TO HIM...

WHAT?! NO! THERE ARE *FRIENDLIES IN THE--*

BOSH

THRABOOM

YOU!

ASS.

FOOSH

ASH

YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE SHOT.

TRUST ME, IF I GET ANOTHER CHANCE, I WON'T MISS.

NO. YOU WILL NOT GET ANOTHER SHOT.

YOUR LAST CHANCE DOESN'T LIE IN THE BARREL OF A GUN...BUT WITH THIS.

THIS IS THE RING OF KAUFU.

IT IS 5,000 YEARS OLD AND HAD BEEN BURIED BY MY FATHER IN HIS BLACKEST VAULTS.

NOW IT'S HOW YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE THIS RIGHT.

WITH *JEWELRY.*

"WITH THE *SINGLE-USE POWER* OF THE EARTH EMPRESS' GRANDSON, WHO CHASED THE SUN UNTIL HE DIED AND BECAME A MOUNTAIN."

"STUBBORN. I LIKE THAT, BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW IT HELPS?"

"WELL, YOU SEE...

"...KAUFU WAS ALSO A *GIANT.*"

"NOW, THAT I CAN WORK WITH."

HRAH?!

HRAGHH!

CRRAK

HRAHHH!

YOU HAVE HIM! FINISH THE JOB, BARNES-- BEFORE ANY MORE DIE!

SNIKT

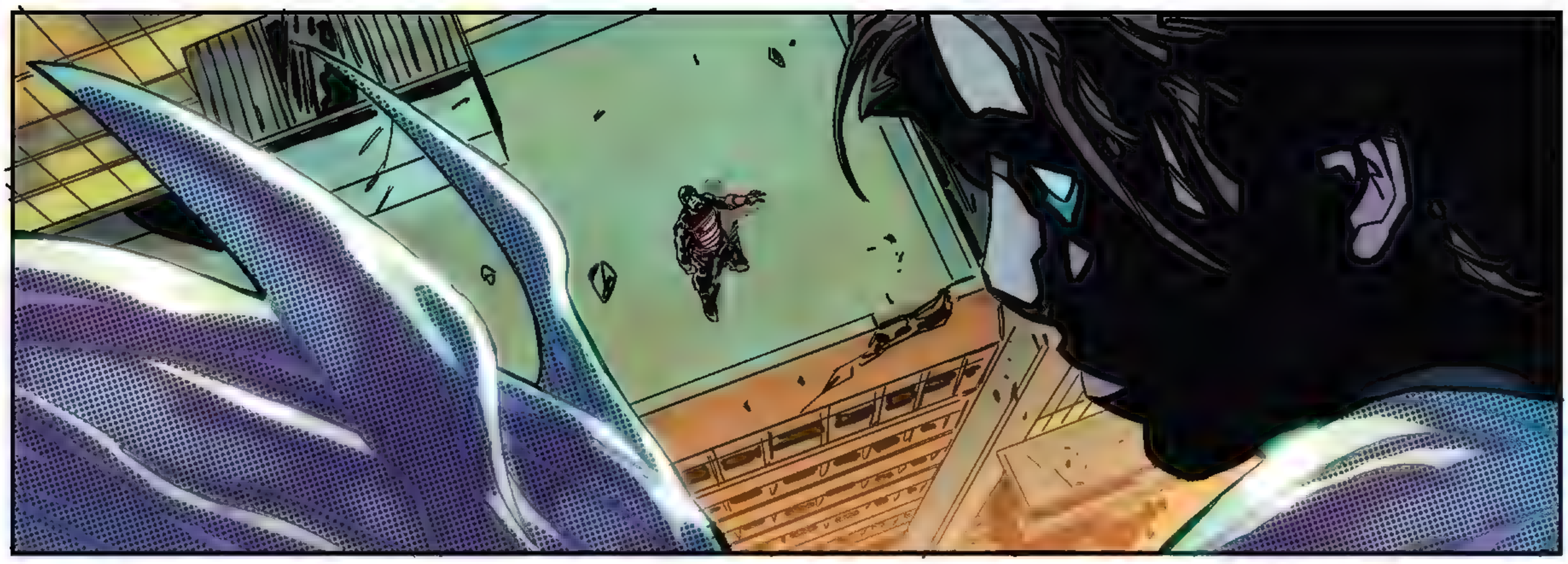
BARNES!

DO IT NOW!

GRAH! GRAH!

"KILL THE MONSTER!"

DOINK



SNAKT

BZZZ

WALKER, A WORD.

YOU CAN TALK JUST FINE FROM THERE, BARNES.

I JUST WANTED TO SAY... YOU DID GOOD TODAY. CHECKING ME BEFORE I ZERO'D YOUR PARTNER.

YEAH, WELL. HE'D HAVE DONE IT FOR ME.

SUPPOSE THIS MEAN'S SHANG-CHI WAS ON THE MONEY? RED SKULL'S ALREADY BACK IN BUSINESS.

OR HE NEVER LEFT. THE BACKUP WE'RE GOING AFTER... IT'S *OLD*.

BUT CONNECTED ENOUGH THAT HE'S GOT AMERICAN MILITARY ASSETS GOING WILD ON HIS COMMAND.

JUST ABOUT.

AND NOW... [redacted], YOU'RE PLANNING ON HITTING LATVERIA YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU? UNDER ***DOOM'S*** NOSE, AND STRAIGHT TO ***SKULL'S*** EXPOSED ***THROAT.***

BEEN WORKING ON THIS QUIETLY FOR MONTHS NOW. HIT HIM LIKE HE'S NEVER BEEN HIT BEFORE. WHAT DO YOU SAY, JOHN...

...WANNA JOIN UP?

AND THAT ***MAKES SIX.*** JAMES, I'M IMPRESSED.

THE OTHERS ARE READY?

AND ALMOST **ENTIRELY** SOBER.

THEN WE'RE MISSION GO. SPREAD THE WORD, VAL...

...IT'S TIME TO CRACK THE SKULL.

#2 variant by **PACO MEDINA & JESUS ABURTOV**

▶ OP-04 // OPERATION [DOOMSTRIKE]

DOOM HAS BEEN WATCHING YOU, BUCKY BARNES...

"...EVER SINCE YOUR *GIFT* OF THE FORTUNOV SURVIVOR,* WHO HAS PROVIDED US *MANY HOURS* OF CATHARTIC AMUSEMENT.

THE CONTESSA.

*IN CAPTAIN AMERICA FINALE #1. --ALANNA

"BUT THERE IS NO AMOUNT OF GRATITUDE THAT CAN MAKE A FOOL OF DOOM.

WHITE WIDOW.

"YOUR CLANDESTINE MISSIVE IS BOTH UNCONVINCING IN ITS EVIDENCE AND INSULTING IN ITS IMPLICATION.

BLACK WIDOW.

"LATVERIA NEITHER *HARBORS* THE RED SKULL NOR HAS HER SOVEREIGNTY BEEN *BREACHED* BY SUCH *VERMIN* AS HIM. THIS 'CONTINGENCY VAULT' YOU CLAIM HE BUILT HERE IS A FANTASY.

SHANG-CHI.

"FURTHERMORE, YOUR ATTEMPTS TO MANIPULATE DOOM INTO OPENING LONG-CLOSED BORDERS TO YOUR CELL OF ERRANT *WEAPONS OF WAR* IS TRANSPARENT.

MA. PA. THIS IS FOR *YOU.*

U.S.AGENT.

"YOUR REQUEST FOR OPERATIONAL FREEDOM IN DOOM'S AIRSPACE IS DENIED.

THE DESTROYER.

"KNOW THAT IF YOU MAKE *ANY ATTEMPT* TO INFILTRATE LATVERIA, THE ONLY THING LEFT OF YOUR SO-CALLED 'REVOLUTION,' WITHIN *TEN MINUTES* OF DETECTION..."

RED GUARDIAN.

...WILL BE ASHES.

DOOM-MINUS 10

I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE DEUTSCHMARKS, NAT?

WHAT, LIKE, THE CURRENCY?

THWP

NO, THE *STORY.* FROM THE WAR.

OKAY, SO WE'RE IN THE RHINE. NOVEMBER 1944. STEVE, DUGAN, ME AND A WHOLE PLATOON OF G.I.s MARCH ON CASTLE ZEMO.

HEINRICH GOES AHEAD AND LOCKS HIS DRAWBRIDGE. LEAVES HIS PEOPLE TO STARVE. WE SPEND A WEEK TRYING TO GET IN-- BUT NOTHING WORKS. WE'RE STUCK WAITING HIM OUT.

THE LOCALS ARE WELCOMING... UP TO A POINT. THEY AREN'T GONNA TRY TO KILL US IN OUR SLEEP OUT OF LOYALTY TO THAT [redacted] IN THE HIGH CASTLE.

WE HAVE THIS GUY IN THE PLATOON, GOES BY CHICK. EX-BOXER, REAL ARTISTIC. HE AND STEVE GET ON LIKE PORK AND BEANS.

SO, CHICK FINDS OUT THEY'VE GOT A *BIERHAUS* AND DRAGS OUT ME AND STEVE.

WEREN'T YOU A LITTLE *YOUNG* TO BE DRINKING?

YEAH, BUT REMEMBER, I'VE NEVER SEEN STEVE DOWN A BOOT OF BOCK BEFORE. AIN'T ABOUT TO PASS UP *THAT* KIND OF OPPORTUNITY.

THIS IS THE PLACE.

YOU SHOULD ALL STAND BACK.

THAT'S BASICALLY WHAT THE BARTENDER SAYS. WON'T SERVE US. WE EVEN OFFER TO PAY. BUT THE GUY ONLY KNOWS THREE WORDS IN ENGLISH.

BOOM

NO DOLLARS. *DEUTSCHMARKS.*

WELL.
CHICK AIN'T HAVING THAT.
STEVE TRIES TO JUST SHRUG IT OFF, BUT CHICK STARTS NOTICING THAT THERE'S NOT A DEUTSCHMARK IN THE ENTIRE TOWN. ZEMO'S TAKEN *EVERYTHING* AND HOARDED IT IN A VAULT NEAR THE CASTLE.
BASTARD EVEN LEAVES THE VAULT RIGHT THERE WHERE EVERYONE COULD SEE-- SO THEY COULD FEAR HIM. BRING HIM TRIBUTE.
THESE PEOPLE HAVE NOTHING. AND ZEMO THINKS IT MAKES HIM UNTOUCHABLE.
SO I BLOW THE VAULT.
KAPOW
CHICK, STEVE AND I, WE TAKE EVERY SCRAP OF TREASURE WE CAN BACK TO THE BAR, AND THE WHOLE TOWN DRINKS ON ZEMO FOR A WEEK.
UNTIL THEY ALL CHASE HIM OUT OF THE DAMN CASTLE THEMSELVES, CHANTING THE SAME THING, OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
NO DOLLARS.
DEUTSCHMARKS.
BRAVE PEOPLE TO STAND AGAINST SUCH TYRANNY.
MAY THEIR SPIRITS BE WITH US THIS DAY.

BOOM

BOOM

DONK

SMASH

BOOM

THERE...

DEFENSES DOWN.

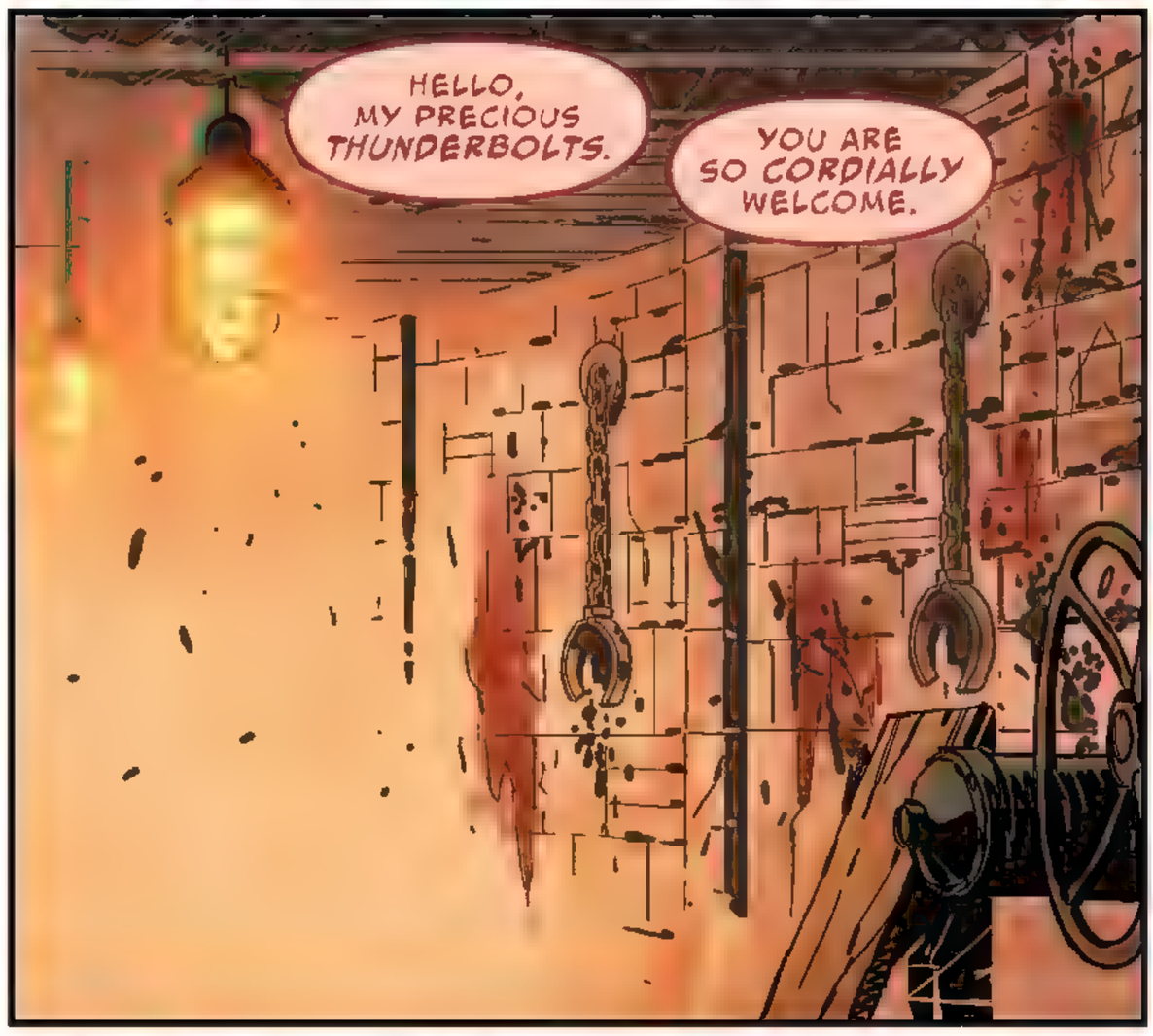
NOW WAKE ME UP...

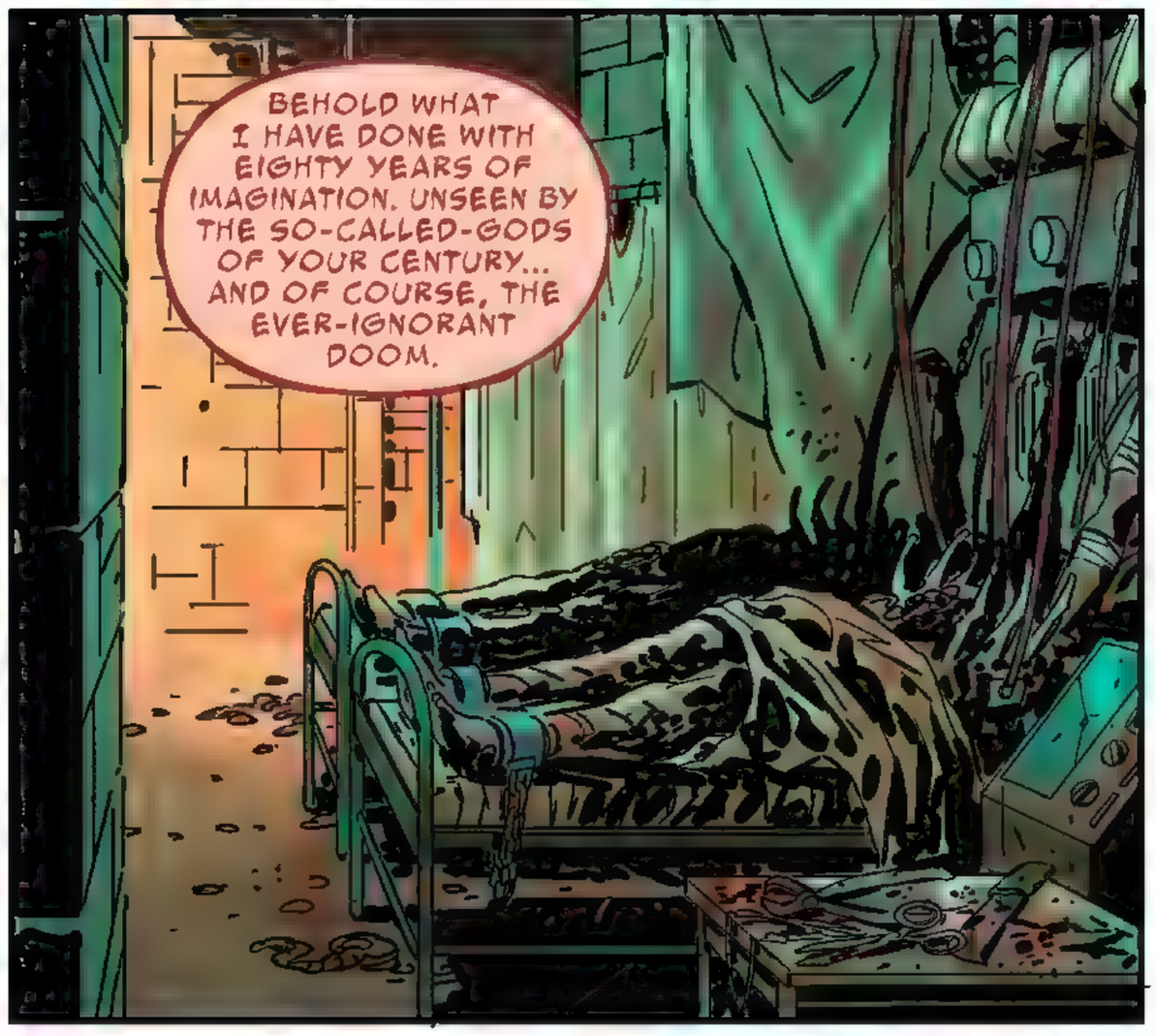
...WHEN IT'S TIME...

...FOR BEER.

BOOM

DOOM-MINUS 8


HELLO, MY PRECIOUS THUNDERBOLTS.
YOU ARE SO CORDIALLY WELCOME.


BEHOLD WHAT I HAVE DONE WITH EIGHTY YEARS OF IMAGINATION. UNSEEN BY THE SO-CALLED-GODS OF YOUR CENTURY... AND OF COURSE, THE EVER-IGNORANT DOOM.

WITNESS THE SEEDS OF GENOCIDE BEFORE THEY GROW INTO A WORLD TREE OF PURITY.

COME AND SEE.

FOR YOU HAVE FACED THE SHADOW OF HATRED SO MANY TIMES, LITTLE SOLDIERS...

...BUT NOW YOU FACE HER MASTER.

SHMIDT.

SHMIDT IS LONG DEAD. I AM HIS MISSION-- REFINED, SHARPENED AND MADE GLORIOUS.

YOU WILL CALL ME THE RED SKULL.

AS I WILL CALL YOU BY YOUR NEW SOBRIQUET. AS IT'S QUITE FITTING.

AFTER ALL, I'VE WATCHED THIS ENTIRE CENTURY PASS FROM THIS CAVE-- AND LEARNED ONE LESSON MORE THAN ANY OTHER.

REVOLUTIONS DO TWO THINGS.

THEY KILL...

...AND THEY DIE.

DOOM-MINUS 6

SHANG-CHI, DO YOU LIKE SMASHING GIANT FASCIST ROBOTS?

I DO, DESTROYER. VERY MUCH.

GOT ROOM IN THIS LITTLE *MENAGE FOR A TROIS?*

WHEN IT COMES TO LAUNCHING INTO CERTAIN DEATH, YELENA--THE MORE, THE MERRIER.

HAH! THEY MAKE LITTLE ROBOT SOUNDS WHEN THEY DIE?! *DELIGHTFUL!*

BRZ*OW!*

THESE *THINGS*--THEY WERE ONCE *PEOPLE.*

THERE'S NOTHING A NAZI WON'T WEAPONIZE, INCLUDING YOUR EMPATHY.

THE ONLY ONE WHO WINS WHEN YOU PULL YOUR PUNCHES...

"...IS THE ONE STILL *STANDING.*"

DOOM-MINUS 5

LET'S DO WHAT WE CAME HERE *TO DO.*

FOR THE LIFE YOU *STOLE FROM ME.*

FOR CALEB AND EMILY.

FOR EVERY LIFE YOU'VE CRUSHED.

CATCH

AH. WHAT A PITY.

YOU HAVE SO MANY GHOSTS WHO WILL BE DISAPPOINTED IN YOU.

DOOM-MINUS 4

CRACK

CRASH

IF THERE'S ONE THING CAP TAUGHT ME, IT'S THAT YOU ALWAYS PUNCH NAZIS IN THE--

CATCH

SLAM

zzzzzzzzzz

KRUNCH

ZZK

ZZK

DOOM-MINUS 3

ARE YOU READY TO DIE, CHILD?

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE PAIN YOU'VE EARNED?

PAIN DOESN'T SCARE ME, SKULL.

I'M NOT THE KID YOU REMEMBER. NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

NO. THAT CHILD WAS CLEVER! COURAGEOUS!

YOU ARE SIMPLY HIS WALKING CORPSE...

JAMES!

...FINALLY COME HOME FOR BURIAL.

THANOS

DOOM-MINUS 2

YOU THINK... I'VE FORGOTTEN... HOW TO BE *CLEVER?*

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK. YOU HAVEN'T...HAD A NEW MOVE... SINCE '41.

VIOLENCE. HATE. MENACE. VIOLENCE AGAIN. AND WHEN *THAT* DOESN'T WORK...

...YOU *HIDE.*

SHUK

YOU'RE THE CORPSE, SKULL. THRIVING IN DARKNESS.

I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT THAT'S LIKE.

MAYBE IT'S TIME WE *BOTH* STEPPED INTO THE LIGHT!

NNNNN.

...ARE WE TO *THE FINAL PART* ALREADY?

ALEXEI.

RUN.

DOOM-MINUS 1

LITTLE SPEECHES?!

TRITE LESSONS ABOUT LIGHT AND DARK?!

IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE LEFT, BARNES?!

ARE YOU GOING TO TELL HIM? OR CAN I?

CAREFUL, YOU GALOOT. I'M EXTREMELY VALUABLE.

YOU AND YOUR KIND TRIED TO MAKE ME AN ASSASSIN. YOUR LONE WOLF, TOO ISOLATED TO EVER TRULY TAKE YOU DOWN.

BUT I'VE LEARNED A LITTLE SOMETHING FROM YOUR PLAYBOOK ALONG THE WAY. I TOOK YOUR ***SECRETS***. YOUR ***MONEY***. YOUR ***LEVERS OF POWER***. AND I FOUND YOUR LAST HIDING PLACE.

HELL, SHMIDT. HOW THICK ***ARE*** YOU?

DID YOU REALLY THINK MY FRIENDS AND I WERE TRYING TO BEAT YOU IN A ***BOXING*** MATCH?

WE WERE JUST WAITING FOR THE ***LOCALS***.

DEUTSCHMARKS, YOU [redacted].

DOOM-MINUS 0

AS FORETOLD. NO MAN STANDS AGAINST...

BARNES.

I LIKE THIS PLACE. IS LIKE A SPA.

NO. IS LIKE POCKET-DIMENSION TECHNOLOGY CRIBBED FROM KINGPIN'S FAVORITE *WALKING VAULT.*

WHAT CAN I SAY? I GOT TECH ENVY THE MOMENT I SAW IT. MADE IT A TUNNEL RATHER THAN A VAULT. MUCH MORE USEFUL.

THE FIVE WEAPONS SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO FORMALLY MAKE A BID ON THIS PLACE. I CAN SEE *MANY* USES.

HAVE YOUR PEOPLE CALL MINE. O.X.E. LOOKS FORWARD TO YOUR BUSINESS.

OH, AND BARNES?

CALL FOR YOU.

JAMES BUCHANAN BARNES.

*THE MISTAKE YOU HAVE MADE TODAY WILL HAVE CONSEQUENCES YOU HAVE **YET TO IMAGINE.** YOU HAVE USED DOOM AS ORDNANCE IN YOUR WAR. A TOOL. A **WEAPON.***

WE WERE ALL TOOLS IN SOMEONE ELSE'S WAR, VICTOR. DOESN'T MAKE YOU A WEAPON.

IT MAKES YOU *ONE OF US.* CONGRATULATIONS, DOCTOR DOOM...

TELEMETRY SET. ROCKY MOUNTAINS, HERE WE COME.

...YOU'RE A *THUNDERBOLT.*

THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN.

FORMER SHADOW CAPITAL OF THE OUTER CIRCLE.

YOU KNOW...IT'S VERY RARE IN OUR LINE OF WORK TO *ACHIEVE CATHARSIS.*

I'D EXPECT TO SEE AT LEAST A SMILE ON YOUR FACE. EVEN *IF* YOUR BROODING VIBES ARE *IRRESISTIBLE.*

TALK TO ME, JAMES. ARE YOU... SATISFIED? ARE YOU *HAPPY?*

"THE LOST GLOVE IS HAPPY."

SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT A LONG TIME AGO. AND I THOUGHT SHE WAS RIGHT FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

SHE? SHOULD I BE JEALOUS?

EVERYONE SHOULD BE JEALOUS. SHE WAS AN ALIEN PRINCESS. AND FOR A WHILE...SHE MADE A LOT OF SENSE.

I'VE TRIED TO... LOSE MYSELF. TRIED TO BUILD A HOME. TRIED FOR ***NORMAL.*** TRIED TO STAY LOST. IT DIDN'T TAKE. AND IT SURE AS HELL DIDN'T MAKE ME HAPPY.

YOU KNOW WHAT I REALIZED, NAT? THE LAST FEW WEEKS?

I'M NOT A GLOVE. BUT WITH YOU?

I CAN BE THE WHOLE DAMN HAND.

HELL YEAH.

YOU'VE GOT MY BAT, BARNES. SKULL MIGHT BE STOMPED, BUT THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF POWERFUL CREEPS SCURRYING IN THE SHADOWS.

NOTHING WOULD WARM MY BONES MORE THAN LIGHTING THOSE SHADOWS ON FIRE.

I KNOW SHADOWS DON'T LIGHT ON FIRE BUT ENGLISH IS AN IDIOT'S LANGUAGE.

IT'S NOT A SMALL THING TO TAKE ON A LEGACY. IT'S EVEN HARDER TO NOT LET IT CONSUME YOU.

I'M IMPRESSED. AND I GOTTA ADMIT... THIS WAS FUN, WHICH IS IN SHORT SUPPLY IN MY LIFE THESE DAYS. YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE THERE.

THERE'S NOT A LOT OF TRUST IN OUR BUSINESS. BUT YOU HAVE MINE.

YES, YOU SHOULD BE HONORED.

This ruled. MORE please.

WELL, JAMES. CONGRATULATIONS ON ENDING WORLD WAR II.

IT ONLY TOOK EIGHTY YEARS.

SOMETIMES A BULLET TAKES TIME TO FIND ITS TARGET.

THE POINT IS...WE *DIDN'T* MISS.

WELL, THEN. IF YOU'RE NOT ALL RUNNING FOR THE EXITS...

...THEN I GUESS I ONLY HAVE ONE QUESTION.

WHO'S NEXT?

THE END...?

#3 Marvel '97 variant by **SCOTT GODLEWSKI & MATT MILLA**

#1-4 Connecting variant by **JOSEMARIA CASANOVAS**

No outlaw has evaded justice more than WILSON FISK, formerly the kingpin of a vast criminal empire that touched every corner of New York City (and beyond). Now the duly elected mayor of New York, Fisk has tried to wash his hands of his old life--and the bloodshed it bore.

But the steps that DAREDEVIL took to supernaturally conceal his true identity as MATT MURDOCK have been slowly driving Fisk into madness, leading him to set his ire upon the city and every costumed vigilante in it. As part of his war on super heroes, he's compiled an impressive stack of dossiers on his enemies--and for someone who's forgotten as much of his life as BUCKY BARNES has, there's nothing more valuable than information...

DEVIL'S REIGN: [WINTER SOLDIER]

MAYOR FISK. THE PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE AS YOU REQUESTED.

I'VE POSTED ONLY THE GUARDS WITHOUT FAMILIES. THE DOORS ARE REINFORCED.

GRACIE MANSION IS *SECURE.*

AND MY *BRIDE?*

MARY IS *AWAY,* SIR. SHE DIDN'T TELL ME WHERE, AND TRUTHFULLY, I DIDN'T ASK.

GOOD, WESLEY. YOU'VE LEARNED.

NOW LEAVE ME.

I HAVE ABLUTIONS TO PERFORM.

IT IS ALL RIGHT THAT I CANNOT READ IT.

IT IS JUST A FILE.

IT IS JUST THE DEVIL'S REAL NAME.

I *DON'T* NEED TO KNOW.

I DON'T *NEED* TO KNOW.

I DON'T NEED.

AT ALL.

IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS SINCE I ACTUALLY SLEPT.

SLEEP.

YOU WANT TO SLEEP.

I'VE BEEN RUNNING FOR SO LONG. FIGHTING THIS DAMNED WAR FOR LONGER.

WHEN I DIE, I HALF-EXPECT MY BODY TO KEEP MOVING. I DON'T THINK IT KNOWS HOW TO STOP.

ALL IT REALLY KNOWS IS THE MISSION.

I USED TO FIND COMFORT IN THAT.

...I DON'T... NEED...

...TO...

BUT THESE DAYS?

THESE DAYS I LIVE AWAKE.

I'D DONE A WEEK WITHOUT SLEEP BEFORE. BACK IN SRI LANKA.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS A RECORD. HAD NO PARTICULAR INTEREST IN BREAKING IT.

BUT HERE I AM.

THREE WEEKS SINCE I GOT ANYTHING CLOSE TO REST.

EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO ONE TO FIGHT. NO MISSION TO RUN.

BY THE WORLD'S RULES, I COULD JUST BE JAMES "BUCKY" BARNES FOR A WHILE.

BUT MY MIND DOESN'T PLAY BY THE WORLD'S RULES.

IT DWELLS ON THE PAST.

IT LIGHTS UP WHEN DARKNESS FALLS.

CLICK

I CAN'T SLEEP. HAVEN'T FOR WEEKS.

BUT I'VE SURE AS HELL STARTED TO DREAM.

MY DREAMS ALWAYS START IN THE DARK.

MY EYES OPEN TO A WORLD I DIDN'T ASK FOR.

I SEE BLOOD. IN POOLS AND IN RAIN. IN TEARS DOWN THE EVER CHANGING FACES OF PEOPLE I ONLY MET ONCE. WHEN I WAS THE LAST PERSON THEY EVER MET.

MY CONSEQUENCES.

FOR A MOMENT, LIKE A DEEP BREATH, I GLIMPSE THOSE IMPOSSIBLE SKIES ABOVE MER-Z-BOW.

IF I CAN REACH FAR ENOUGH, IF I CAN EXTEND MY FINGERS, I CAN TOUCH HER. ANOTHER MOMENT, AND I SEE VENTOLIN'S SMILE. I WILL BE HEALED.

BUT I CAN'T TAKE FLIGHT. MY ARM IS NO WING. IT'S A WEIGHT...

...AND I FALL.

I'M FREEZING AND I FALL.

I'M NO ONE AND I FALL.

I'M STEVE.

AND I FALL.

BUT I NEVER SLEEP.

I PULL IT TOGETHER. I PROMISE MYSELF TONIGHT WILL BRING ME PEACE.

BECAUSE ACCORDING TO MY CONNECTIONS IN INTELLIGENCE AND SUPER VILLAIN CIRCLES, FISK HAS FILES.

FILES ON HEROES. ON THEIR FRIENDS. SECRET IDENTITIES. SECRET MISSIONS. *SECRET HISTORIES.*

AND MINE IS INSIDE THIS DAMN MANSION.

EVERY OFFICIAL RECORD OF MY LIFE HAS BEEN ANNIHILATED FROM EVERY ARCHIVE. VIRTUALLY ANYONE INVOLVED HAS DIED IN OBSCURITY OR BEEN KILLED TO PROTECT THE PAST.

THOSE CONSEQUENCES. THE ONES IN MY DREAMS. THE ONES I SEE IN THE DARK EVEN NOW. I DON'T KNOW MOST OF THEIR NAMES. I BARELY KNOW WHO I WAS. OR WHY I DID WHAT I DID.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY'RE HAUNTING ME. MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY WON'T LET ME SLEEP.

THIS FILE MIGHT BE MY LAST CHANCE TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

EVEN IF IT'S LIKELY STAINED IN EVEN MORE BLOOD.

BECAUSE I DIDN'T BREAK MY PROGRAMMING. I DIDN'T GIVE MYSELF THIS SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE.

STEVE DID. A FLASH OF THE COSMIC CUBE AND ALL WAS FORGIVEN.

BUT FORGIVING *MYSELF* REQUIRES SOMETHING ELSE.

UNDERSTANDING.

I NEED TO KNOW WHAT I WAS. ALL OF WHAT I WAS.

I NEED TO FINALLY LOOK THE PAST IN THE EYE.

I SNAP MY RACING MIND INTO FOCUS.

NO GOOD BREAKING INTO GRACIE MANSION IF I JUST END UP CAUGHT AND SURROUNDED BY COPS.

AND IN THAT FOCUS, THE ALARM BELLS IN MY HEAD START RINGING.

'CAUSE THIS IS WRONG. ALL WRONG.

THIS IS THE HOUSE OF THE *MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY.* EVEN WITH THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS DOWN, THERE SHOULD STILL BE SECURITY. EVERY DOOR AND WINDOW SHOULD BE GUARDED.

EXCEPT THEY AREN'T. NOT TONIGHT.

I SEE THE BODIES EVERYWHERE. MY DREAMS BLEEDING INTO MY REALITY.

THIS PLACE STINKS LIKE DEATH...AND I HAVE TO WONDER IF THAT'S JUST MY MIND, REMINDING ME OF WHO I TRULY AM.

FOCUS, BUCKY.

THE FEAR'S IN YOUR MIND. THE DEATH'S BEHIND YOU.

JUST.

MOVE.

FORWARD.

Don't forget, James.

YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE ME TOO.

CREEEAK

INTO THE VAULT.

NO ALARMS IN THE HOUSE. I REPEAT THE OLD ADAGE IN MY HEAD AND HOPE IT'S TRUE.

AS ABOVE...

KRAK

THE WINTER SOLDIER

SPIDER-WOMAN

MOON KNIGHT

DARKHAWK

...SO BELOW.

THE WINTER SOLDIER

BUT THEN I HEAR IT.

NO.

NOT IT.

HIM.

FISK.

YOU KNOW WHO I AM. YOU AND I, WE'RE ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF A LINE, BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO BE ENEMIES, NOT TODAY. I'M ONLY HERE FOR MY FILE.

I CAN PAY.

I HAD A HOUSE IN INDIANA. SPRAWLING. A PLACE FOR...DOGS AND SWEET TEA.

I SOLD IT. THE HOUSE, THE PROPERTY. CONVERTED IT ALL TO CASH THAT I CAN PUT IN YOUR HAND.

THIS FILE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY HAPPY ENDING.

FISK... I JUST WANT TO SLEEP.

HE'S NOT RESPONDING.

WHY IS HE JUST STANDING THERE?

WHY ARE HIS EYES...?

SLEEPWALKING. IRONIC.

HE PROBABLY HAS NO IDEA I'M EVEN HERE.

THAT MUST BE WHY THE HOUSE HAS BEEN CLEARED AND SECURITY EVACUATED. NO ONE CAN SEE THE KING WITHOUT CLOTHES. BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE...

...WHY ARE HIS FISTS COVERED IN BLOOD?

I DON'T NEED TO KNOW!

GOD. OH GOD.

I WASN'T IMAGINING THE BODIES.

WHY CAN'T I...?

MY JAW'S BROKE. FRACTURED ON IMPACT.

WHY CAN'T I SEE?

I'D HEARD WILSON FISK WAS STRONG.

I HAD NO IDEA.

THE PANIC SETS IN. THE EXHAUSTION RISES TO MATCH IT.

AND THEN, FINALLY...

...THE TRAINING HITS.

FOCUS.

EVADE.

ACQUIRE.

MOVE.

I CAN'T SEE IT!

FISK GOES QUIET.

I LET MYSELF HOPE HE'S AWAKE. OR FINALLY OFF HIS FEET.

I LET MYSELF HOPE.

BUT I CAN SEE YOU!

MARY... WHERE... WHERE ARE YOU, MARY...?

YOU'RE ALL THAT MATTERS NOW. JUST YOU... AND I... AFTER HE'S DEAD.

AFTER I CAN READ IT.

WAKE UP, FISK!

IT'S ALL A BAD--

THUD

HE TAKES MY ARM IN HIS.

THE ARM THAT HELD HER.

YOUR SECRETS ARE MINE... DEVIL.

KRNCH

...YOU...YOUR VIGILANTE FRIENDS...

...NAKED WITHOUT YOUR SECRETS.

AND WITHOUT YOUR ARMOR...

...YOU'LL TEAR SO EASILY.

MY ARM IS BROKEN.

I'M NOT.

NOT YET.

I THINK THE KNIFE WILL HELP.

I'M DREAMING AS MUCH AS FISK IS.

SO I DO WHAT STEVE TAUGHT ME TO DO.

I REACH FOR THE FLAG.

DON'T NEED... TO READ IT...

I'LL JUST KILL YOU HERE!!!

SOMETHING BUCKLES. AT FIRST, I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S MY LEGS...OR THE STAIRS.

BUT THEN THE CEILING BEGINS TO GO.

AND I REALIZE THIS MIGHT BE IT.

MY TRAINING IS SCREAMING. *COMPLETE THE MISSION.*

BUT I CAN RUN AS HARD AS I WANT. IF I LET UP, EVEN A LITTLE...

...IF I LET THE FEAR IN...

...IF I STOP PRETENDING TO BE ANYTHING BUT A KILLER WITH A HERO'S FACE...

...AND LET THE *NIGHTMARE* WIN...

...THEN MAYBE I CAN FINALLY SLEEP.

DIE FOR ME, DEVIL.

KRAK

SIR!

KOOM

SIR, THE WHOLE STRUCTURE IS UNSTABLE, YOU HAVE TO--

OUT OF MY WAY.

SIR! MISTER MAYOR, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

YES, WESLEY. I CAN HEAR YOU.

SIR, ARE YOU...ALL RIGHT?

I HAD THE MOST WONDERFUL DREAM.

DARKHAWK

I'VE LOST MOST OF MY BLOOD BY THE TIME I GET TO THE ALLEY.

I'M RUNNING ON FEAR.

AND DREAD.

BUT THERE'RE NO CAMERAS ON THIS BLOCK. NO MARKETS. QUIET OVERPASS.

LEGS CAN STILL SIT. EYES CAN STILL SEE.

I DID THIS TO LEARN THE TRUTH.

TO SEE EVERY KILL. TO KNOW EVERY PERSON I WRONGED. AND WHO MADE ME PULL THE TRIGGER. SO I STEEL MYSELF FOR THE TRUTH BEHIND THE WINTER SOLDIER.

BUT IT'S NOT *HIS* FILE.

IT'S *MINE.*

JIMBARNES

JAMES BUCHANAN BARNES

FISK DIDN'T COMPILE THIS--HE STOLE IT FROM SOMEONE ELSE. SOMEONE MORE POWERFUL.

THEY NEVER IDENTIFY THEMSELVES, BUT THEIR NOTES ON ME BEGIN WHEN I'M BORN.

THEY HAVE FILES ON MY FATHER, MY MOTHER. THEY HAVE MY REPORT CARDS. THEY KNOW I FAILED CHEMISTRY.

AFTER MY DAD'S DEATH, THEY ASSIGNED ME TO LEHIGH.

THEY PUT ME IN THE COSTUME. THE FIRST ONE. WITH THE STAR ON THE BELT. AND THEY INTRODUCE ME TO STEVE.

WHEN I DIE, IT'S A MINOR SETBACK. ONCE I'M RECYCLED THROUGH DEPARTMENT X AND THE STAR'S ON MY ARM, THEY PICK UP WHERE THEY LEFT OFF.

I KILL 374 PEOPLE FOR THEM OVER 78 OPERATIONAL YEARS.

WITH ONLY 91 KILLS AS PART OF THE WINTER SOLDIER PROGRAM.

THEY LIST ME AS ACTIVE DUTY. LIKE I'M STILL WORKING FOR THEM. LIKE I'M STILL THE SOLDIER. LIKE I NEVER STOPPED.

BECAUSE MAYBE I DIDN'T. MAYBE I'M STILL PLAYING THEIR GAME.

AFTER A NIGHT IN HELL, IT'S NOT CLOSURE I FIND IN THAT FILE.

IT'S A TRAIL OF DEAD.

JAMES BUCHANAN BARNES

JAMES BUCHANAN BARNES

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, I FEEL CLEAR.

I HAVE PURPOSE. A HUNT.

WHOEVER WROTE THIS FILE WON'T SURVIVE THE YEAR.

AS FOR CLOSURE...

"...I'LL SLEEP WHEN THEY'RE DEAD."

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COLLECTING ***THUNDERBOLTS (2023) #1-4*** AND ***DEVIL'S REIGN: WINTER SOLDIER*** – BY JACKSON LANZING, COLLIN KELLY, GERALDO BORGES, NICO LEON, ARTHUR HESLI AND FELIPE SOBREIRO.

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